WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

Sub A1

1. A guard for a syringe comprising a needle, a needle protector cap, and a barrel, the guard comprising:

a body comprising a cavity for receiving the syringe therein, the body having an open proximal end communicating with the cavity, and a distal end having an opening through which the needle and needle protector cap on the syringe may extend when the syringe is received in the cavity;

a shield slidably attached to the body, the shield having proximal and distal ends, the distal end having an opening through which the needle and needle protector cap may extend when the shield is in an unguarded position, the shield being slidable between the unguarded position and a guarded position wherein the needle is covered by the shield;

one or more tabs in a wall of at least one of the body and the shield, the one or more tabs being deflectable from a first position wherein the tab extends along the wall or radially outwardly from the wall, to a second position wherein the tab is directed inwardly into the cavity for contacting the barrel of a syringe received in the cavity; and

one or more detents on the shield for locking the shield in the guarded position.

2. The guard of claim 1, wherein the one or more tabs comprise a pair of tabs in opposing walls of the body.

3. The guard of claim 1, wherein each tab is connected to the wall of the body by a hinged region.

4. The guard of claim 3, wherein the hinged region comprises a weakened region for bending the tab inwardly towards the second position.

5. The guard of claim 1, wherein each tab is formed from a material that may be softened upon heating to allow the tab to be deflected from the first position towards the second position.

6. The guard of claim 1, further comprising a finger grip on the proximal end of the body, the finger grip comprising a locking mechanism for engaging the proximal end of the syringe to limit axial movement of the syringe.

7. The guard of claim 1, wherein the tab extends axially towards one of the proximal and distal ends of the body in the first position.

8. The guard of claim 1, further comprising a syringe received in the cavity, the syringe comprising a needle protector cap and a barrel having an outer cross-section smaller than an outer cross-section of the needle protector cap, the cavity having a cross-section larger than the outer cross-section of the needle protector cap.

9. The guard of claim 1, wherein the shield comprises one or more openings that overlie the one or more tabs when the shield is in the unguarded position.

10. An injection device, comprising:

a syringe comprising a barrel, a needle extending from a distal end of the barrel, and a needle protector cap detachably covering the needle;

a radial element extending from the barrel;

a body comprising open proximal and distal ends, and a cavity extending between the proximal and distal ends for receiving the syringe therein, the cavity having a cross-section for receiving the needle protector cap therethrough as the syringe is inserted into the cavity, the radial element contacting an inside surface of the body for preventing substantial lateral movement of the syringe within the cavity, the needle and needle protector cap at least partially extending beyond the distal end of the body when the syringe is received in the cavity;

a shield slidably attached to the body, the shield having proximal and distal ends, the distal end of the shield having an opening through which the needle and the needle protector cap extend when the shield is in an unguarded position, the shield being slidable between the unguarded position and a guarded position wherein the needle is covered by the shield; and

one or more detents on the shield for locking the shield in the guarded position.

11. The injection device of claim 10, wherein the radial element is integrally molded as part of the barrel.

12. The injection device of claim 10, wherein the radial element is a substantially annular collar having an outer diameter approximately as large as an outer diameter of the needle protector cap.

13. The injection device of claim 12, wherein the collar is secured to the barrel by at least one of mechanical interference and an adhesive.

14. The injection device of claim 12, wherein the collar is integrally molded as part of the barrel.

15. The injection device of claim 12, wherein the collar comprises a "C" shaped collar.

16. The injection device of claim 10, wherein the radial element comprises a plurality of tabs extending from the barrel.

17. The injection device of claim 16, wherein the plurality of tabs are disposed circumferentially about the barrel.

18. The injection device of claim 10, further comprising a locking mechanism on the proximal end of the body, the locking mechanism engaging a proximal end of the syringe to limit axial movement of the syringe.

19. The injection device of claim 18, the locking mechanism comprising one or more detents defining a slot, the slot receiving at least a portion of flange on the proximal end of the barrel therein to substantially secure the syringe within the cavity.

20. The injection device of claim 10, wherein the syringe is a pre-filled syringe including medication therein.

Sub A3

21. A method for assembling an injection device, comprising:

providing a body comprising open proximal and distal ends and a cavity extending therebetween;

inserting a syringe into the proximal end of the body until a needle and needle protector cap extending from a distal end of the syringe extends through the open proximal end of the body; and

deforming a portion of the body inwardly to contact a barrel of the syringe to prevent substantial lateral movement thereof within the cavity.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein the deforming step comprises deflecting one or more tabs on the body inwardly to contact the barrel.

23. The method of claim 22, further comprising inserting the distal end of the body into a proximal end of a shield such that the shield is slidably attached to the body, the shield

having proximal and distal ends, the distal end of the shield having an opening through which the needle and needle protector cap extend.

24. The method of claim 23, wherein the shield is slidably attached to the body before the one or more tabs are deflected inwardly, the shield comprising one or more openings therethrough for accessing the one or more tabs on the body.

25. The method of claim 23, wherein the shield is slidably attached to the body after the one or more tabs are deflected inwardly.

26. The method of claim 22, wherein the one or more tabs are deflected inwardly after heating the one or more tabs to soften a material comprising the one or more tabs.

27. The method of claim 22, wherein the one or more tabs are plastically deformed to deflect the one or more tabs inwardly.

28. A method for assembling an injection device, comprising:

providing a needle guard comprising open proximal and distal ends and a cavity extending therebetween;

inserting a syringe into the proximal end of the needle guard until a needle and needle protector cap extending from a distal end of the syringe extends through the open proximal end of the needle guard; and

deforming a portion of the needle guard inwardly to contact a barrel of the syringe to prevent substantial lateral movement thereof within the cavity.

29. The method of claim 28, wherein the deforming step comprises deflecting one or more tabs on the needle guard inwardly to contact the barrel.